The Echidna feeds like anteaters, by thrusting its toiif into an ant-hill, and waiting until it is covered with indigm and marauding ants, which are then swallowed. But t! animal also devours worms and insects, \vhicli are extracted fix their hiding-places by the tongue. It is mainly nocturnal, a prefers the seclusion of the densest scrubs of the bush, or roc spots where it is free from intrusion. Dr. Senion did not fii that the spur of this animal was used at all in self-defeiic but he thinks that possibly the weapon may be used, in tJ breeding season only, in the combats of the males for the femalt when perhaps, as has been shown to be the case in *Ornithorhy. chus,* the gland attached to it produces a poisonous secretion.

The egg, as it appears, is transferred to the pouch by tl mouth of the mother ; the shell is broken by the emergin young one, which has an egg-breaking tubercle on its sriou for this purpose; the mother removes the shell. When th young has attained a certain size, the mother removes it froi the pouch, but takes it in from time to time to suckle it. Wliej on her nightly rambles the young one is left in a burrow duj for the purpose. Dr. Semon was able, from his own observations to sxibstantiate this act of intelligence on the part of th< Echidna. It is well known that the temperature of the Mono- tremes is less than that of higher mammals ; in addition to thie fact Dr. Semon found that the range of variation of tempera- ture in the Echidna was as much as 13 degrees or more. It is thus intermediate between the ** poikilothermal" reptiles and the " homoeotherrnal" mammals.

Fern. 2. OrnithorhyncMdae.—There is no need to attempt to define this family, since it contains but one genus *OrnithorJiT/nchus,* with but one species, *O. anatinus.* The general aspect of the animal is well known. It is covered with dense fur of a blackish brown colour; the limbs are short and five-toed, the toes being webbed. The tail is longish and broad, being flattened from above downwards. The webbing on the anterior toes consider- ably outdistances the tips of the claws, as in the Seals. But this

is not the case with the hind-feet. The " beak/* which is broad and flat, and does actually suggest that of a duck, is not covered with horn, as is often stated, but with a fine, soft, sensitive, naked skin, which abounds in sense-organs of a tactile nature. As to characters derived from the skeleton, *OrnitJiorhynchus* has seven-